



DOCKET NO.: RCOH-1040

Serial No.: 10/055,410

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Amdt. dated January 26, 2005

Response to Office Action of April 5, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraph starting with "Now referring now to FIGURE 6" on page 8, lines 9-26 with the following amended paragraph:

Now referring to FIGURE 6, a diagram illustrates another exemplary range of the combined image A to be used by the preferred embodiment according to the current invention. In this example, a process area 502 is between outside a selected rectangle 501 and inside the overlapped image A 503 as indicated by the shaded area. The rectangle area 501 is selectable while the overlapped image A frame is fixed. The rectangle 501 is specified by four points or corners including 501a, 501b, 501c and 501d. After an initial rectangle is specified, the user optionally modifies the rectangle 501 by dragging a middle point of each line of the rectangle 501 as indicated by a solid square with a pointing device such as a mouse. In the first embodiment, the coordinates of the middle points and the corners are displayed to facilitate the user to modify the process range. However, the outside frame 503 is not modifiable. For example, after confirming the selected process area 502 for removal, the page controller 202 removes the images in the selected process area 502 and outputs to the printer 106 the page image without the portion that corresponds to the process area 502. Subsequently, the page controller 202 destroys the processed overlapped image A via the ~~pat~~epage image generation unit 201. As described above, the removal process in the selected process area 502 is desirable for removing images around the edges of the original image and is facilitated by specifying the area 502 in an easy manner.